

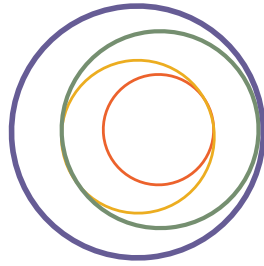
not a toolkit!

Fair Collaboration in Cultural Relations A ReflAction

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WAYS OF SENSING - INJUSTICE



THE CONCEPT OF JUSTICE

The concept of justice provides a lens to identify issues of inequality and power when examining and building social relationships. In attempting to secure fair collaboration in cultural relations, the notion helps us analyse collaboration critically, as well as identify and address the multiple conditions that perpetuate uneven social norms and structures that affect people's participation in collaborative relationships in different ways.

Because cultural relations take place across national boundaries and can connect people and groups with very different social and cultural backgrounds and identities, it is key not only to strive for justice but, more importantly, to identify injustice — the lack of fairness or justice — in a particular situation or relationship and work to address such reality, especially when recognising we have the power to do so.

Injustice has many types which can include social inequality, violence, abuse and mistreatment, racism, poverty, environmental injustice, privilege and the conditions faced by refugees and asylum seekers (Watts and Hodgson, 2019). In many cases, more than one type of injustice intersects one another. In the process of establishing partnerships aimed at fair collaboration, these injustices need to be identified and addressed collectively and systemically.

HOW TO USE THIS TEXT?

-----> This text can help cultural organisations strengthen their understanding of the idea of justice, their ability to recognise instances and patterns of injustice in our work as members of a cultural organisation and their capacity to develop individual and institutional strategies to address these.

Ideas in this text can be used in daily interactions with partners, and specially as organisations design projects and programmes that involve other people that may not share our own social reality, or the context that grants us social privileges and/or a position of power over others.

While it may be obvious why fighting for justice is important, the concept tends to be used so much that we need to go beyond discourse and examine the concrete consequences of different types of injustice and how to address them. Some consequences of injustice as it affects collaboration in cultural relations include:

UNEVEN PARTICIPATION – Some members in a seemingly collaborative relationship may be more able to influence decisions than others, whether because of social status, privilege, racism and/or discrimination. As a result, certain members may remain withdrawn during design and implementation, while others intervene most of the time.

ABSENCE OF DISSENT – Some members, because of the multiple intersecting injustices, may be reluctant to contradict or oppose ideas or decisions directly. They may fear generating discomfort among partners, facing implicit or explicit retaliation and/or expulsion from the project. Thus, an illusion of collective harmony is kept, while concrete problems are made invisible and or inconsequential.

LIMITED IMPACT AND SIGNIFICANCE – The inability of certain partners to participate fully and/or freely in a collaborative relationship may limit the impact and significance of project results for certain communities. Impact may be skewed in favour of particular social realities to the detriment of others.

JUSTICE AND THE EUNIC COMMUNITY

For the EUNC community, embracing and promoting the principles of justice towards fair collaboration should mean strengthening individual and institutional abilities to identify and address injustice in any instance of collaboration with others.

At the individual level, this could mean recognising the ways in which certain personal decisions and dispositions affect the quality of justice in any collaboration while developing protocols to redress these. At the organisational level, this may mean working under a principle of justice that actively tackles the consequences of various intersecting kinds of injustice.

KEY/OPEN QUESTIONS WE NEED TO ASK

WHEN	WHAT QUESTIONS
When beginning to develop a relationship with a potential partner organisation in Europe or the Global South	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What challenges or obstacles does the organisation we want to partner with — and/or the people and organisation it works with — face as defined by their national or local context?- How are these obstacles distributed among the people or groups that form part of the organisation, and how could they be addressed or overcome by the project?
When collaborating in the design of a project or program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-What specific (and ideally permanent) spaces has the project generated to identify and address forms of injustice that may arise in the process of collaboration?-What types of injustice — distributed unevenly across collaborating partners — can be addressed by the programme through specific actions and protocols?-What types of injustice can't be addressed by the programme through specific actions and protocols? How could we still attend to them?
When evaluating the results of the programme	Here to be consistent with previous questions what are those voices and/or identities that will most likely be absent or quieter in voicing problems in implementation and unsatisfactory results? How can we make sure to include or consider them?

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER READING

- Dolšak, N. & Prakash, A. (2022) ***Three Faces of Climate Justice***. The Annual Review of Political Science 25:12.1–12.19.

Article identifies three types of injustice: (1) uneven exposure to climate change impacts across countries and communities within a country, (2) the uneven distribution of costs of carefully designed mitigation and adaptation policies, and (3) the uneven distribution of benefits across sectors and communities, often reproducing existing inequalities.

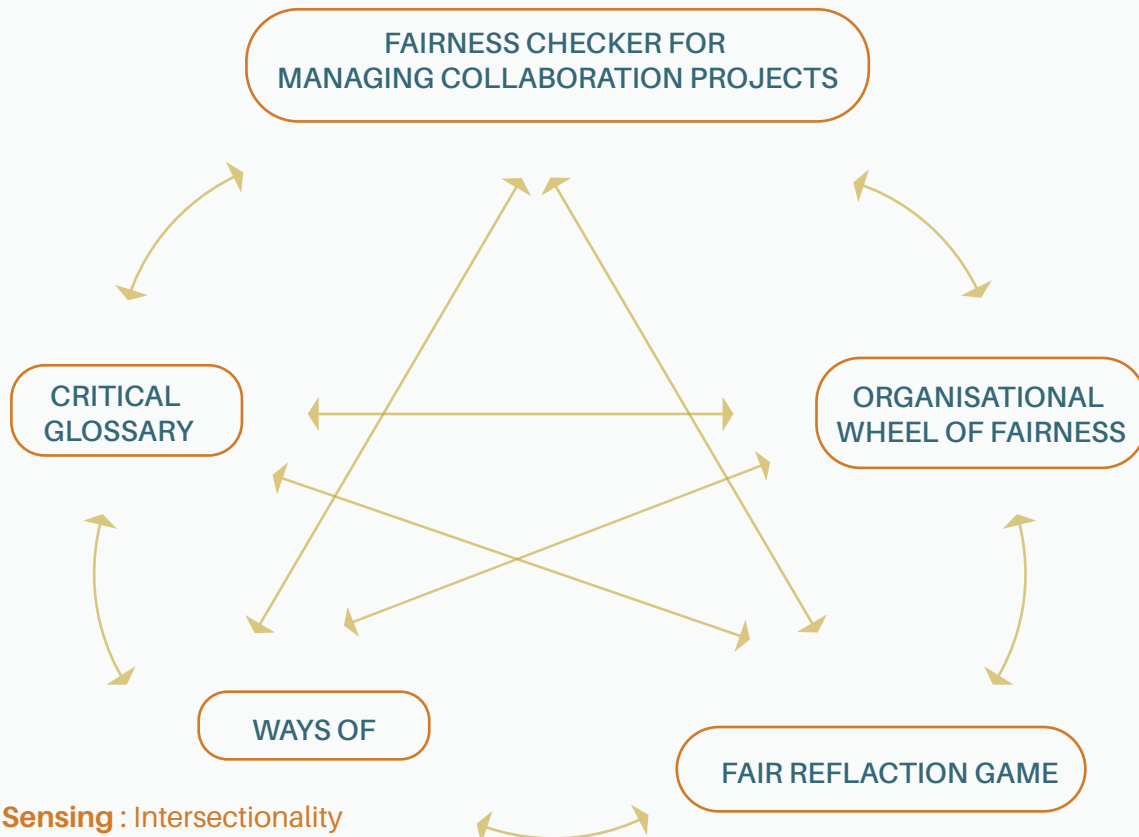
- Moroni, S. (2020). The Just City. ***Three Background Issues: Institutional Justice and Spatial Justice, Social Justice and Distributive Justice, Concept of Justice and Conceptions of Justice***. Planning Theory, 19(3), 251–267.

Article focuses on three methodological issues to frame the “just city”: (a) (urban) institutions as the first subject of justice, (b) the incomplete overlap between social justice and distributive justice, (c) the distinction between the concept and the conceptions of social justice.

- Watts L., Hodgson D. (2019) ***Injustice and Its Many Forms***. In: Social Justice Theory and Practice for Social Work. Springer, Singapore.

Article lists different types of injustices, including those that stem from social inequality, violence, abuse and mistreatment, racism, poverty, environmental injustice, privilege and the conditions faced by refugees and asylum seekers.

Each component of the *Not a Toolkit! Fair Collaboration in Cultural Relations - A ReflAction* is connected to all other components. After finishing your reflAction journey in this section continue journaling in the next part.



Sensing : Intersectionality

Thinking : Decolonisation & Racism

Doing : Fair Evaluation

Connecting : ReflAction

Sensing : Injustice

Thinking : Climate Emergency